

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 8 and 9 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended. Support for the amendments to claim 1 can be found, for example, in paragraphs [0049]-[0050] and Fig. 5 of the original disclosure. No new matter is added. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims in view of at least the following remarks.

The courtesies extended to Applicant's representative by Examiner Natnithithadha at the interview held December 3, 2009 are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below, which constitute Applicant's record of the interview.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-5, 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §101 for allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Without conceding the validity of the rejection, Applicant amends claim 1 to recite, "calculating a signal strength with a signal strength calculator obtained as a reciprocal of a coefficient obtained by gain-controlling the detected signals" in accordance with Examiner Natnithithadha's suggestion during the December 3, 2009 personal interview to tie the first calculating step to a circuit or similar device. Based on Examiner Natnithithadha indicating that amending claim 1 according to his suggestion would overcome the rejection, Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-5, 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. Applicant amends claim 1 to recite, "the gain being set so that an amplitude of the output signals decreases when a peak value of the detected signals exceeds an upper limit threshold and the amplitude of the output signals increases when the peak value of the detected signals is below a lower limit threshold" in accordance with Examiner Nanitihithadha's suggestion during the December 3, 2009 personal interview.

Based on Examiner Natnithithadha indicating that amending claim 1 as recited above would overcome the rejection, Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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